

# Score Point 1

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- Limited understanding of text
- Little or no ability to reflect
- No meaningful connection
- No literary critique

FORM

<input type="radio"/> SU21	<input type="radio"/> SU24
<input type="radio"/> SU22	<input checked="" type="radio"/> SU25
<input type="radio"/> SU23	

Q. So basically what of this  
S. It is about it a kid  
playing the violin, and the starter he  
was through. The 5 hours of practicing every  
day though are this boy has no  
life he spends all his time  
playing his violin.

Limited understanding of text

Page 44.

0121 NAME SURVIVAL IN TROOP NAME

0352

AS-1b

2 From the beginning of his  
story to the end of his  
story the main character got  
better and vice in

No ability to  
interpret

- Page 45 -

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

## Generalization?

No connection

2. People devote their lives to an instrument that they might find misery in. Some people have dedication.

AS-1d

I didn't like this peace an  
an it did not interest me one bit.  
I don't care about how a person  
that plays a violin likes there life.

Opinion - no  
literary judgment

Limited response  
No basis for  
higher score

SCORE POINT 1

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END OF SESSION

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

## Score Point 2

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- Literal understanding of text
- Little ability to reflect
- Difficulty making connection
- Emotional or superficial critique

Superficial  
interpretation  
about title

AS-3a

FORM  
☐ 50121 ☐ 51224  
☐ 51222 ☒ 51225  
☐ 51223

1. I thought that the story was ok but  
definitely not one of my favorites. The title of this  
story fit well with the story because that was  
probably the main part of that story and mixed  
life. I did not like the teacher or the homeless guy  
in this short story.

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222752

Literal  
understanding  
of text

AS-3b

2. At first Mischa was a talented young man pursuing his dream to be a great violinist. By the end of the story Mischa is a talented man teaching younger artists to play beautiful music and has found peace in his life. The main event that caused this change was when he sent out the Biographical letter and got the calls because he got depressed and was not able to join an orchestra which caused him to start teaching and eventually find peace with himself.

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DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



AS-3c

I think it says that people can feel  
like the are being wronged even if it is a  
misunderstanding. Also that we bring some to conclusions even  
if it may not be right.

Page 48.

222782

Generalization:  
misunderstanding

No connection

Critical point:  
lesson

Unsupported  
critical stance

Literal response  
Basic ideas with  
no support

AS-3d

This short story is a good piece of literature because it is timeless. You can connect well with the characters, but I didn't think it really taught me anything about myself or the world except for be careful of your actions cause they might cause you to lose your career. (When he put Bert's name in the resignation letter)

SCORE POINT 2

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END OF SESSION

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

## Score Point 3

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- Some understanding of text
- Limited ability to reflect
- Superficial or unsupported connection
- Formulaic or unsupported critique

Limited ability  
to interpret

Critical point:  
Story draws  
reader in

FORM		AS-5a
<input type="radio"/> SUB1	<input type="radio"/> SUB4	
<input type="radio"/> SUB2	<input checked="" type="radio"/> SUB5	
<p>1. As soon as I read the title I knew it was about music of some sort and I love music so immediately I was attracted. During the story as I read on through out "Playing for Beethoven" I wondered what was the point of the story being told. Why is this young boy's story being told in such a way that you could sense a bad ending coming. Overall I understood the story quite clear and thought it was a great story and had a lot of enthusiasm in it's words and the way they were put together. The character Michael was a bright young man and obviously talented but why was so much pressure put on a 13-year old boy. I questioned the authority of Beethoven and why he destroyed Michael's career. That was harsh and cruel.</p>		
<p>- Page 44 -</p>		
<p>205959</p>		

text  
(paraphrase)

AS 5b

In the beginning of the story  
Mischka was the greatest violinist  
to be. He was determined and  
put a lot of effort into adapting  
into his talent. By the end of  
the story he created a lot of  
sorrow with him. He felt as if  
he's living the wrong life, he was  
supposed to be famous for his  
talent and love for the art of  
music. Sooner or later he notices  
that as long as you love what  
you do, whether you're famous  
or a teacher you can be joyful.  
He still thinks about what he could've  
become if it wasn't for that one  
mistake of mentioning Beethoven  
in his resume he could've been  
greater than another man as  
Beethoven said.

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DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Limited  
interpretation

47

Critical point:  $\xrightarrow{\text{theme}}$

Critical point:  $\xrightarrow{\text{detail}}$

Lacks support  
from text

Formulaic critical  
stance

AS-5d

The author, Javedan V. was very successful in creating a good piece of literature. The words were so fluent and the flow of the story was good. You could tell when the mood shifted from joy to sadness by the tone. The story had a good theme. To me, I thought the theme was that as long as you enjoy what you do in life, you have reached your goal. I think this because Mischa was so sad that he didn't get to fulfill his goal in becoming a famous violinist but then noticed it wasn't about the fame it was the love for playing and became a violin teacher. The author also put a lot of details in the words of the character. He had everything a good piece of literature needs.

SCORE POINT 3

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STOP END OF SESSION

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Mixed response  
Elements similar  
to different scores  
Unsupported critical  
stance but  
no connection

## Score Point 4

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- Basic understanding of text
- Some ability to reflect
- Some connection with or without support
- Critique lacks depth or support



text

text

text

Critical point:  
ironyPlausible  
interpretation:  
motivations

FORM <input type="radio"/> SU21 <input type="radio"/> SU24 <input type="radio"/> SU22 <input checked="" type="radio"/> SU25 <input type="radio"/> SU23	AS-8a
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1. Once I finished reading the story, I had some thoughts and questions about this story. I felt that my most important question was "Why does Berlinsky have to make things so hard and unfortunate for Mischa?"

Mischa played The Brahms so well for Berlinsky, yet Berlinsky ruined his dreams of becoming a famous violinist. It seems extremely ironic that Berlinsky would choose to do this: "How nice this man seemed... When and open."

This was how Mischa felt. Berlinsky was after meeting him, and he was "Genuinely interested in the young man." However, Berlinsky ruined Mischa's dream because Mischa referred to him: "...the conductors won't see you, because Berlinsky won't let them... Berlinsky was firing... he can't stand... when students use him as a stepping stone..."

"Berlinsky did this because he felt he was being used by Mischa. I don't think Berlinsky should have done this, because it was not apparent that Berlinsky did not like that I also thought about what Mischa meant when he was talking to the author at the end of the story. When Mischa said "I've found my peace..." I really understood what he meant. I believe he means that he has not forgotten, but has stopped worrying about it and has been successful doing so."

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COPY MASTERING AREA

206719

2. In the beginning of the story, Mischa is a very talented and eager young violinist. Mischa had been practicing every day, eager to play for the great violinist Sascha Berlinisky, and had performed so well that Berlinisky was so delighted and Mischa was so eager and inspired. In the end of the story, Mischa was now a great violin teacher who kept his experiences in memory and had found his "peace". In the end, Mischa remembered his experiences and was teaching violin. I think that the main cause for this change was the recital for Berlinisky. Berlinisky's approval had confirmed his talent as a violinist. But instead of going on to become a well-known musician, Berlinisky made sure Mischa would not do so by getting in contact with the orchestra. This experience made Mischa quit playing violin, but had also proved to be a powerful lesson for Mischa. In the end, after he had realized, "You will not let idiots keep you from your path. You will not let difficulties keep you from your path. You will not let failure keep you from this path, either." This shows that Mischa has learned from his experience with Berlinisky, that no one should let things keep them from where they want to go.

Some ability  
to interpret

3. This story tells us that people, in general, can learn from their mistakes and make something good out of it. In the story, Mischa was ruined when Berlioz had stopped his dreams and destroyed them when Mischa performed him in a bio. Her orchestra to see. Mischa was devastated and even quit playing violin. But in the end, when Mischa was older, the reader could tell that Mischa had learned a valuable lesson: don't let difficulties and negatives keep you from your destination.

This reminds me of a quote I have heard many times, "When you have lessons, make tomorrow."

I interpret that as making something good out of a bad experience or situation. This was what Mischa had done, escaped from a terrible mistake and, in the end, learned a valuable lesson. I believe this also reveals the theme: learning from experience.

Superficial  
connection

Generalization:  
Make something  
good out  
of mistakes

Link back

Literary judgments  
lack depth

Critical point:  
theme

Mixed response  
Ideas with  
some support  
Still some  
elements of a 3

AS-8d

4. I believe that the author was very successful in creating a quality piece of literature. I felt that the characters were very well-made, multi-dimensional.

Sasha Belinsky was at first portrayed as a nice and welcoming person, but revealed a mean and terrible side when he kept orchestra from meeting Misha. Misha, too, was also very well-formed. He was at first a young and eager violinist with high aspirations. But he had become an instructor who used his life experiences as valuable lessons. I also felt that the theme was revealed in a subtle manner, yet effective. The theme, "learning from experience", is one that everyone can understand and connect to. The plot, too, was a very good one. It revealed the internal conflict with Misha dealing with his mistake.

Critical point:  
characterization

Critical point:  
conflict

Not well supported  
with examples

SCORE POINT 4

- Page 47 -



END OF SESSION

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

## Score Point 5

- Basic understanding of text
- Acceptable ability to reflect
- Supported connection
- Thoughtful and supported critique

FORM  
☐ SU21 ☐ SU24  
☐ SU22 ☒ SU25  
☐ SU23

I thought it was funny when Uncle Misha made the joke about Berlinsky hitting him over the head with the bat. This was funny because there really wasn't anything Berlinsky could do to him. I was confused when Uncle Misha got the phone calls that said "we are terribly sorry but we'll have to cancel due to circumstances beyond our control." I thought Misha had done something wrong. I thought it was stupid that Berlinsky wouldn't let the conductors see Misha just because he mentioned him in his biography. The title of this story was symbolic because playing for Berlinsky was the beginning of everything that happened that changed his life. I wonder why Misha mentioned Berlinsky in his biography was such a big deal. I think it is because Berlinsky probably had someone use him or his name to become more successful. I liked the end of this story because it sends a message that says you cannot let difficulties get in your way from reaching your goals.

Thoughtful interpretation

Reflection on title

Draws a conclusion:  
Berlinsky's motives

Critical point:  
lesson

Plot summary

text

Some ability  
to interpret:  
music as passion

AS-11b

2. In the beginning of the story the main character, Vanya Ilyich, was a very talented 13 year old boy whose dream was to become famous. He was excited to play for Beethoven, and when he did good so that he could send out his resume to admistrators all over. The character in the main character name, when the technicians who had originally wanted him, called to Leningrad, Vanya was devastated, and even gave up playing for a while to find a school. Then he became a violin teacher and realized that he never played to become famous, he played because music was a passion. He used his experience and mistakes to inspire others. He said it'd rather play for the love of the art than the need to be famous. He knew that it was more important to keep the music inside alive than to be famous.

This story says that ~~people~~ in general will never give up on something they are passionate for. Even though Uncle Misha faced some obstacles, he still did what he loved in the end. "He was in his heart and soul a musician, no matter what he studied or attempted."

This story reminds me of my cousin Ali. She started out young as a gymnast and wins far better than most people her age. But she faced many obstacles too. She was always too young. It was always too expensive, it was taking up too much of her life. She had to stop doing what she loved, to focus on school, her job and her family, but it made her unhappy. She found a club at school for gymnastics and decided to join. She didn't end up becoming champion like she had hoped for, but she got to do what she loved to do. Whatever she wanted. It's like Uncle Misha and his music. Neither one of them gave up on their dream, no matter what happened to them.

[Link back](#)

text

Connection: < cousin keeps trying



Literary  
judgments  
with examples

text

text

Critical point:  
characterization

AS-11d

When it comes to the story "Playing  
for Backusky", the author Jordan U. was  
successful in creating a good piece of literature.  
Good literature contains humor, imagery, and dynamic  
characters. One example of humor in this story  
was when Linda Mishka visited Father, Dr.  
Pedagogia was asking what Backusky would  
do if Mishka played badly. The author said "what  
would Backusky do to make Mishka anyway? He  
hung over the board with the board." I found  
this humorous because this really was helping Backusky  
could do and I was asked myself "the same  
question. Hunter helps make good literature because it  
highlights up even a serious story and makes it more  
fun to read. One example of imagery in this story was  
when the author described his own outfit. "Mishka  
noticed he had purchased a beautiful blue suit, a crisp, white  
shirt with just enough room under the arms and a  
collar. Linda remarked to him "the description makes you  
picture his spotty new outfit. Imagery is important because  
it creates a picture in your mind. The new character was  
a clownish character because he looked like a clown. He  
became funnier to play because he was passionate  
for the chess. This makes the story more interesting.

Critical point:  
humor

Critical point:  
imagery

Good response  
Thoughtful with  
supported ideas

SCORE POINT 5

STOP END OF SESSION

Page 47

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

## Score Point 6

- Basic understanding of text
- Exceptional ability to reflect
- Perceptive and supported connection
- Perceptive and supported critique

text

text

Thoughtful  
interpretation:  
others vs. self

AS-14a

FORM

☐ SUR1 ☐ SUR4  
☐ SUR2 ☒ SUR5  
☐ SUR3

1. This story is about a character Misha, who is an extraordinary violin player. At early ages, Misha was phenomenal. He played very difficult technical pieces and always expressed great emotion. "He was, according to family lore, one of the greatest young concert violinists of his day." His teacher had set up a recital for Sasha Berinsky. Berinsky was arguably the greatest violinist of the time, and he was Misha's idol. He spent days practicing and anticipating the recital. He looked forward to the day as the best day of his life. When the day arrived, Misha dressed in the best possible attire and shined his shoes for 25 mins each. He was ready. He played for Berinsky and all went well. Berinsky, the greatest violinist ever, had approved of Misha's playing. For Misha, this was the highest praise Misha was awarded. Berinsky approved. He felt like standing from the highest mountain. Then Misha started applying to orchestras. When he wrote his bio, he included that Berinsky had approved of him. This was a problem, because Berinsky hated when students used him as a reference. He told all the orchestras not to accept him and Misha was left alone. Even though Misha was one of the greatest violinists of his age, and in his day, he could not perform what he loved. Then he realized that the point is not to impress others with his music. The point was to do it for yourself and to love it.

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DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

218409

text

text

Exceptional ability  
to reflect:  
climbing the social  
ladder

AS-14b

2. The main character Mischka definitely changes during the story. At the beginning of the story, Mischka cares too much about climbing the social ladder with his music. He cares too much about what other people think of his music. A lot of this thinking came from the influence of his teacher Pedagoga. Pedagoga cared way too much about playing the music the way it was written, and cared too much what Berlinsky thought. "Ah! What will Berlinsky say? What will he do to you?" said Pedagoga. "What will Berlinsky think of me if I allow you to play that message like this?" Pedagoga cared too much about what Berlinsky thought and didn't allow Mischka to express himself the way he wanted to. This influenced Mischka to think that way. When he found out what Berlinsky said to the orchestra his view changed. After many years of grief, he realized that music is not about impressing others, or climbing the social ladder to success. Music is about expressing your emotion, and even if your social success is taken from you by people like Berlinsky, nobody can ever take your love for music away from you. "Joyous music is beauty. Only people can hurt us and keep our world from wholeness." If a conductor wants to call and talk to me about your repertoire that's fine, but you're on your own. I'd rather you play for the love of the art than the need to be famous. In these two quotes Mischka shows how he changed into someone that doesn't care what other people think of his playing. He plays because he loves to.

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DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Integrates  
connection with text

Perceptive  
connection

Links back  
to text

AS-14c

This story reminds me of a personal story. My sister played the piano when she was little. She loved it very much, and I could tell she loved it when she got to middle school, people started to make fun of her for playing the piano. Eventually she started claiming that she disliked playing the piano, even though I could tell she still loved it. By the time she was in high school my sister quit. Simply because everyone thought it was funny and made fun of her for playing the piano. My sister is like Mischka. They both care what other people think of their music. They care too much about climbing the social ladder. Mischka cared too much about becoming famous and cared too much about what Boatsley thought of his playing. My sister on the other hand, cared too much about what people in her school thought. As a result, they both quit. My sister quit because she cared too much about fitting in. And Mischka quit because he cared too much about getting into an orchestra and becoming famous. Sadly my sister has not realized what Mischka has in the end, and she still does not play. But the same way my sister cared too much about what other people thought Mischka did too.

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DO NOT WRITE IN THESE AREAS

218409

Literary  
judgments  
with examples

text

text

Critical point:  
lesson

Critical point:  
metaphor

Critical point:  
simile

AS-14d

The author was very successful in creating a good piece of literature, and I liked the story very much. In my point of view, a good piece of literature uses good literary devices to portray/express a message or a theme. This story definitely has a good message, and that is: to stop worrying about what other people think and do what you love. The author uses good literary devices to express this message through the story. For example, in one paragraph, the author describes Mischka's emotion very well. "Mischka's insides were burning. His head was swimming." These two sentences are metaphors, and the author's use of them really helps me understand better how Mischka was feeling. "His heart palpitated as if inside several ironworkers were swinging hammers on their anvils." This is also an example of a good literary device: a simile. These metaphors and similes create great imagery, and really help make us understand how Mischka is feeling. Since this story has a great message and uses good literary devices such as metaphors, similes, and imagery, it is a good piece of literature. You can also connect to the story very easily, which is also very important in creating a good piece of literature. Overall, the author was definitely successful in creating a good piece of literature.

Excellent response

Perceptive with

well supported ideas

SCORE POINT 6

- Page 47 -

END OF SESSION

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA